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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A state machine for an assembler capable of processing structured assembly language, said state machine comprising:

an IF state, an ELSE state, an END_IF state, an ELSE_IF state, and a SETUP IF state;

means for transitioning from said IF state or said ELSE_IF state to said SETUP_IF state, in response to recognizing a SETUP_IF clause; and

means for transitioning from said SETUP_IF state to said ELSE_IF state, in response to recognizing an ELSE_IF clause.

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- The state machine of Claim 1, wherein said state machine further includes a means for transitioning from said IF state to said ELSE state, in response to recognizing an ELSE clause.
 - 3. The state machine of Claim 1, wherein said state machine further includes a means for transitioning from said IF state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END IF statement.
 - 4. The state machine of Claim 1, wherein said state machine further includes a means for transitioning from said IF state to said ELSE_IF state, in response to recognizing an ELSE_IF clause.
 - 5. The state machine of Claim 1, wherein said state machine further includes a means for transitioning from said ELSE state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END IF statement.
 - 6. The state machine of Claim 1, wherein said state machine further includes a means for transitioning from said ELSE_IF state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
 - 7. The state machine of Claim 1, wherein said state machine further includes a means for transitioning from said ELSE_IF state to said ELSE state, in response to recognizing an ELSE clause.

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8.	A computer program product residing on a computer usable medium for processing
structu	ed assembly language, said computer program product comprising:

program code means for implementing a state machine having an IF state, an ELSE state, an END_IF state, an ELSE_IF state, and a SETUP_IF state;

program code means for transitioning from said IF state or said ELSE_IF state to said SETUP_IF state, in response to recognizing a SETUP_IF clause; and

program code means for transitioning from said SETUP_IF state to said ELSE_IF state, in response to recognizing an ELSE_IF clause.

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- 9. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein said computer program product further includes program code means for transitioning from said IF state to said ELSE state, in response to recognizing an ELSE clause.
- 10. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein said computer program product further includes program code means for transitioning from said IF state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
- 11. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein said computer program product further includes program code means for transitioning from said IF state to said ELSE_IF state, in response to recognizing an ELSE_IF clause.
- 12. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein said computer program product further includes program code means for transitioning from said ELSE state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
- 13. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein said computer program product further includes program code means for transitioning from said ELSE_IF state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
- 14. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein said computer program product further includes program code means for transitioning from said ELSE_IF state to said ELSE state, in response to recognizing an ELSE clause.

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15.	A data processing system having an assembler for processing structured assembly
langua	ge, said data processing system comprising:

a state machine having an IF state, an ELSE state, an END_IF state, an ELSE IF state, and a SETUP_IF state;

means for transitioning from said IF state or said ELSE_IF state to said SETUP_IF state, in response to recognizing a SETUP_IF clause; and

means for transitioning from said SETUP_IF state to said ELSE_IF state, in response to recognizing an ELSE_IF clause.

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- 16. The data processing system of Claim 15, wherein said data processing system further includes means for transitioning from said IF state to said ELSE state, in response to recognizing an ELSE clause.
 - 17. The data processing system of Claim 15, wherein said data processing system further includes means for transitioning from said IF state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
 - 18. The data processing system of Claim 15, wherein said data processing system further includes means for transitioning from said IF state to said ELSE_IF state, in response to recognizing an ELSE_IF clause.
 - 19. The data processing system of Claim 15, wherein said data processing system further includes means for transitioning from said ELSE state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
 - 20. The data processing system of Claim 15, wherein said data processing system further includes means for transitioning from said ELSE_IF state to said END_IF state, in response to recognizing an END_IF statement.
- 21. The data processing system of Claim 15, wherein said data processing system further includes means for transitioning from said ELSE_IF state to said ELSE state, in response to recognizing an ELSE clause.

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22. A data processing system comprising:

means for identifing a SETUP_IF clause;

means for associating said identified SETUP_IF clause with an ELSE_IF clause having a test condition; and

means for inserting instructions from said identified SETUP_IF clause prior to the test condition of said ELSE_IF clause where said ELSE_IF clause logically follows a prior IF clause or a prior ELSE_IF clause.